(	ase 3:10-cv-02344-BTM -BLM Document 1	Filed 11/12/10 Page 1 of 28						
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5								
. 6	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT							
7	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA							
8	MARTIN GORE, Derivatively On Behalf of )							
9	ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.,	Case No.						
10	Plaintiff,	'10CV2344 JM NLS						
11	vs.							
12	JACK LIEF, DOMINIC P. BEHAN, ) DONALD D. BELCHER, SCOTT H. BICE, )	SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT						
13	HARRY F. HIXSON, JR., TINA S. NOVA, ) SCOTT M. SCHNEIDER, CHRISTINE A. )							
14	WHITE, M.D. and RANDALL F. WOODS,							
15	Defendants, )	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL						
16	-and-							
17	ARENA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.,							
18	Nominal Defendant. )							
19	Nominal Defendant. )							
20								
21	INTRODUCTION							
22	1. Plaintiff MARTIN GORE, ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, hereby submits this							
23	Shareholder Derivative Complaint (the "Complaint") against certain officers and directors of Arena							
24	Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Arena" or the "Company"). Plaintiff asserts state law claims for breach of							
25	fiduciary duty against the Individual Defendants (as defined in ¶ 23 below).							
26	2. Plaintiff bases his allegations upon information and belief, except those allegations							
27	concerning himself, which are based upon his personal knowledge. Because Plaintiff lacks access to							
28	all information and documents on which his claims are based, certain of his allegations are made by							
	Verified Shareholder Derivative - 1 Complaint							

- 3. Arena is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing and commercializing oral drugs that target G protein-coupled receptors ("GPCRs") in four major therapeutic areas: cardiovascular, central nervous system, inflammatory and metabolic diseases. The Company's principal drug in development is lorcaserin hydrochloride ("Lorcaserin"), an experimental weight loss drug that has completed a pivotal Phase III clinical trial program. In December 2009, Arena submitted a New Drug Application ("NDA") to the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") regarding Lorcaserin.
- A number of securities class action lawsuits have been filed against the Company and 4. certain of its officers and directors alleging Arena issued false and misleading statements about Lorcaserin and its possibility of FDA approval and its potential success in the marketplace. Those lawsuits allege that the price at which the Company's stock was trading during the several year class period was artificially inflated because of the misrepresentations made by and on behalf of the Company. For purposes of this action, Plaintiff alleges the allegations of wrongdoing in those lawsuits are true. Those securities lawsuits filed to date in the Southern District of California are as follows: Schueneman v. Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 10-CV-1959 L (BLM); Sutliff v. Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 10-CV-1961 JLS (NLS); Rubinstein v. Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 10-CV-1984 L (NLS); and Pratt v. Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al., Case No. 10-CV-1977 DMS-AJB.
- Those lawsuits generally allege that the Company, through its Board of Directors and 5. its agents, issued materially false and misleading statements regarding Lorcaserin, claiming the Company continuously hyped Lorcaserin's combination of efficacy, safety and tolerability and its

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Complaint

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potential for success without disclosing certain health risks associated with the drug. Those lawsuits allege that as a result of the Company's false statements, Arena's stock traded at artificially inflated prices during their alleged Class Period, December 8, 2008 and September 16, 2010, reaching a high of \$7.95 per share on July 30, 2010.

- 6. Similar to the other securities action complaints, one of the securities action complaints filed, *Pratt v. Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, Case No. 10-CV-1977 DMS-AJB ("*Pratt*"), alleges: "On September 14, 2010, the FDA issued a briefing document in advance of its advisory panel meeting in which the agency questioned both the safety and efficacy of Lorcaserin. According to the FDA staff scientist's analysis, Lorcaserin produced minimal weight loss results, barely meeting the agency's threshold for weight loss effectiveness, while at the same time raising certain cardiovascular and cancer safety risks. Most notably, the briefing document disclosed that the drug was associated with malignant tumors in rats. Investors were not aware of the results of rat carcinogenicity studies prior to the release of the FDA briefing document."
- 7. The *Pratt* complaint further alleges that the market price of Arena common stock plummeted upon this news, collapsing \$2.72 per share to close at \$4.13 per share on September 14, 2010 a one-day decline of 40% on high volume. And it further alleges, that on September 16, 2010, the FDA advisory panel voted 9 to 5 against approval of Lorcaserin, in large part because of the results of the rat carcinogenicity studies and the modest therapeutic benefits associated with Lorcaserin. On this news, Arena's stock fell another \$1.75 per share to close at \$1.99 per share on September 17, 2010 a one-day decline of over 46% on high volume.
- 8. The *Pratt* complaint, in paragraphs 7 and 8, also alleges that the representations made to the public and the marketplace were false and misleading and in violation of the law:
  - "7. The true facts, which were known by the defendants but concealed from the investing public during the Class Period, were as follows:
    - a) Defendants failed to disclose the truth concerning the potential for increased cardiovascular and cancer safety risks association with Lorcaserin, including the results of the rat carcinogenicity studies; and

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- b) Defendants failed to disclose the truth concerning the efficacy of Lorcaserin for weight loss.
- "8. As a result of defendants' false statements, Arena's stock traded at inflated levels during the Class Period. However, after the above revelations seeped into the market, the Company's shares were hammered by massive sales, sending them down nearly 75% from their Class Period high."
- 9. The Individual Defendants' failed to ensure adequate procedures were in place to prevent the events set out in detail in the securities lawsuits filed against the Company, including but not limited to making representations made to the public about Lorcaserin and its possibilities of success. By failing to have such procedures in place, and failing to have sufficient checks and balances within the Company, as well as failing to live up to their duties as directors of the Company, the Board of Directors has damaged Arena and its shareholders. Additionally, the Company's goodwill and reputation are materially undermined and tarnished as a direct result of the Individual Defendants' actions.
- 10. Plaintiff brings this derivative action to: (i) recover monetary and restitutionary damages against the Individual Defendants for the benefit of the Company; and (ii) require the Company to reform and improve its corporate governance and internal procedures to protect Arena and its shareholders from a repeat of the damaging events described below.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11. This court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1332, diversity jurisdiction. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims asserted herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1367. Arena maintains its principal executive office at 6166 Nancy Ridge Drive, San Diego, California 92121. Thus, Arena is a resident and citizen of California and of this judicial district. Venue is proper in this Court because some or all of the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred and/or had effect in this judicial district, the Company is located in this judicial district, and many of the Individual Defendants reside in this judicial district. This action is not a collusive one to confer jurisdiction on a court of the United

States which it would not otherwise have.

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### **PARTIES**

- 12. Plaintiff MARTIN GORE is an individual holder of Arena common stock and shareholders of Arena at the time of the transactions of which Plaintiff complains. Plaintiff purchased Arena stock well before the actions complained of above that led to the stock price collapse, and is the current holder of 1,000 shares and has held Arena shares continuously since that time. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of California.
- 13. Nominal Defendant Arena is a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware with its agent for service of process being Corporation Service Company, 2711 Centerville Road, Suite 400, Wilmington, Delaware making it a citizen of Delaware for purposes of diversity. Arena is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing oral drugs. Arena has no drugs on the U.S. market. Arena's principal drug in development is Lorcaserin, to treat obesity. Arena has submitted a NDA to the FDA regarding Lorcaserin.
- 14. Defendant Jack Lief ("Lief") co-founded the Company and at all relevant times has been the Company's President, Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chairman of the Board. Lief is a citizen of La Jolla, California.
- 15. Defendant Dominic P. Behan ("Behan") co-founded the Company and at all relevant times has been the Company's Senior Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer and a director. Behan is a citizen of San Diego, California.
- 16. Defendant Donald D. Belcher ("Belcher") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. Belcher is a member of the Audit Committee and of the Compensation Committee. Belcher is a citizen of San Diego, California.
- 17. Defendant Scott H. Bice ("Bice") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. Bice is a member of the Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Bice is a citizen of Los Angeles, California.
- 18. Defendant Harry F. Hixson, Jr. ("Hixson") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. Hixson is a member of the Compensation Committee. Hixson is a citizen of La Jolla, California.

- 19. Defendant Tina S. Nova ("Nova") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. Nova is a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Nova is a citizen of Rancho Santa Fe, California.
- 20. Defendant Phillip M. Schneider ("Schneider") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. Schneider is a member of the Audit Committee. Schneider is a citizen of Poway, California.
- 21. Defendant Christine A. White, M.D. ("White") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. White is a member of the Audit Committee and of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. White is a citizen of Temecula, California.
- 22. Defendant Randall F. Woods ("Woods") at all relevant times has been a director of the Company. Woods is a member of the Compensation Committee and of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Woods is a citizen of Rancho Santa Fe, California.
- 23. The defendants referenced above in ¶¶14-22 are referred to herein as the "Individual Defendants."
- 24. The Individual Defendants, because of their positions with the Company, possessed the power and authority to control the contents of Arena's quarterly reports, press releases and presentations to securities analysts, money and portfolio managers and institutional investors, *i.e.*, the market. They were provided with copies of the Company's reports and press releases alleged herein to be misleading prior to or shortly after their issuance and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Because of their positions with the Company, and their access to material non-public information available to them but not to the public, the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts specified herein had not been disclosed to and were being concealed from the public and that the positive representations being made were then materially false and misleading. The Individual Defendants are liable for the false statements pleaded herein.

# **DUTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS**

25. By reason of their positions as officers, directors and/or fiduciaries of Arena, and because of their ability to control the business and corporate affairs of Arena, the Individual

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Defendants owed Arena and its shareholders fiduciary obligations of trust, loyalty, good faith and due care, and were and are required to use their utmost ability to control and manage Arena in a fair, just, honest and equitable manner. The Individual Defendants were and are required to act in furtherance of the best interests of Arena and its shareholders so as to benefit all shareholders equally and not in furtherance of their personal interest or benefit.

- Each director and officer of the Company owes to Arena and its shareholders the 26. fiduciary duty to exercise good faith and diligence in the administration of the affairs of the Company and in the use and preservation of its property and assets, and the highest obligations of fair dealing. In addition, as officers and/or directors of a publicly held company, the Individual Defendants had a duty to maintain sufficient and proper internal accounting controls and to promptly disseminate accurate and truthful information with regard to the Company's revenue, margins, operations, performance, management, projections and forecasts so that the market price of the Company's stock would be based on truthful and accurate information.
- 27. To discharge their duties, the officers and directors of Arena were required to exercise reasonable and prudent supervision over the management, policies, practices and controls of the financial affairs of the Company. By virtue of such duties, the officers and directors of Arena were required to, among other things:
  - a) ensure that the Company implements and maintains effective internal accounting and internal control policies and procedures to prevent any reportable and material weaknesses with the Company's financial reporting;
  - b) ensure that the Company complied with its legal obligations and requirements, including acting only within the scope of its legal authority and disseminating truthful and accurate statements to the SEC and the investing public;
  - c) conduct the affairs of the Company in an efficient, business-like manner so as to make it possible to provide the highest quality performance of its business, to avoid wasting the Company's assets, and to maximize the value of the Company's stock;
  - d) properly and accurately guide investors and analysts as to the true financial condition of the Company at any given time, including making accurate statements

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- about the Company's financial results and prospects, and ensuring that the Company maintained an adequate system of financial controls such that the Company's financial reporting would be true and accurate at all times;
- e) supervise the preparation and filing of any audits, reports, or other information required by law of the Company, and examine and evaluate any reports of examinations, audits, or other financial information concerning the financial affairs of the Company, and make full and accurate disclosure of all material facts concerning, inter alia, each of the subjects and duties set forth herein;
- f) remain informed as to how Arena conducted its operations, and, upon receipt of notice or information of imprudent or unsound conditions or practices, make reasonable inquiry in connection therewith, and take steps to correct such conditions or practices and make such disclosures as necessary to comply with federal and state securities laws; and
- g) ensure that the Company was operated in a diligent, honest and prudent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.
- 28. The conduct of the Individual Defendants complained of herein involves a violation of their obligations as directors and officers of Arena, the absence of good faith on their part, and a reckless disregard for their duties to the Company and its shareholders, which the Individual Defendants were aware, or should have been aware, posed a risk of serious injury to the Company.
- 29. The Individual Defendants breached their duties of loyalty and good faith by allowing, or by themselves causing, the Company to misrepresent its financial results and prospects, as detailed herein, and by failing to prevent the Company from taking such illegal actions.
- 30. The Individual Defendants, because of his positions of control and authority as directors and/or officers of Arena, were able to and did, directly and/or indirectly, exercise control over the wrongful acts complained of herein. Because of his advisory, executive, managerial, and directorial positions with Arena, each of the Individual Defendants had knowledge of material non-public information regarding the Company.

## CONSPIRACY, AIDING AND ABETTING, AND CONCERTED ACTION

- 31. The Individual Defendants engaged in a conspiracy, common enterprise and/or common course of conduct commencing by at least 2008, and continuing thereafter. During this time, the Individual Defendants caused the Company to misrepresent and /or conceal the true facts as alleged herein.
- 32. The purpose and effect of the conspiracy, common enterprise, and/or common course of conduct was, among other things, to disguise the Individual Defendants' violations of law, breaches of fiduciary duty, and unjust enrichment; to conceal adverse information concerning the Company's operations, financial condition and future business prospects; and to artificially inflate the price of Arena common stock so the Individual Defendants could protect and enhance their executive and directorial positions and the substantial compensation and prestige they obtained as a result thereof.
- 33. The Individual Defendants accomplished their conspiracy, common enterprise and/or common course of conduct by causing the Company to purposefully, recklessly or negligently fail to maintain effective accounting and internal control policies and procedures. Because the actions described herein occurred under the authority of the Board, each of the Individual Defendants was a direct, necessary and substantial participant in the conspiracy, common enterprise and/or common course of conduct complained of herein.
- 34. Each of the Individual Defendants aided and abetted and rendered substantial assistance in the wrongs complained of herein. In taking such actions to substantially assist the commission of the wrongdoing complained of herein, each Individual Defendant acted with knowledge of the primary wrongdoing, substantially assisted the accomplishment of that wrongdoing, and was aware of his or her overall contribution to and furtherance of the wrongdoing. At all times relevant hereto, each of the Individual Defendants was the agent of each of the other Individual Defendants and of Arena, and was at all times acting within the course and scope of such agency.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### BACKGROUND

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- 35. Arena is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing and commercializing oral drugs that target GPCRs in four major therapeutic areas: cardiovascular, central nervous system, inflammatory and metabolic diseases. The Company's advanced drug candidate, Lorcaserin, has completed a pivotal Phase III clinical trial program. In December 2009, Arena submitted an NDA for Lorcaserin, its experimental weight loss drug, for regulatory approval.
- 36. Numerous drug companies are racing to obtain approval for their weight loss drugs because, in part, there is a dearth of "diet drugs" on the market. The FDA has not approved a prescription weight loss drug in more than a decade. One problem associated with the development and FDA approval of weight loss drugs is and has been the adverse safety profiles of diet drugs. Notably, several years ago, the diet drug known as Fen-phen was pulled from the market because of an adverse safety profile concerning potential damage to heart valves in patients taking the drug. Ever since then, the market and the FDA have been very concerned with the safety profiles of weight loss drugs proposed for FDA approval. As recently as July 2010, the weight loss drug Qnexa, submitted for FDA approval by Vivus Inc., did not receive FDA panel approval due to safety concerns.
- 37. Arena's weight loss drug, Lorcaserin, had been studied in animals, including in rat carcinogenicity studies, which defendants admittedly knew were being conducted. The results of the rat carcinogenicity studies became known to defendants before they conducted the Phase III clinical trials. The results of the rat carcinogenicity studies included carcinogenicity signals in the form of mammary tumors.

# THE SECURITIES LAWSUITS ALLEGE THAT THE COMPANY MADE FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS DURING THE CLASS PERIOD

38. The securities lawsuits referenced above that have been filed against the Company and certain of its directors allege that the Company and certain of its employees and agents engaged in misrepresentations about Lorcaserin's potential throughout the Class Period and by failing to reveal the truth about Lorcaserin's test results when they first learned of it. As similarly alleged in the other securities actions filed, the *Pratt* complaint alleges in paragraphs 32 to 62:

"32. On December 8, 2008, Arena issued a press release announcing the publication of the results of its Phase IIb clinical trial results of Lorcaserin in the official peer reviewed journal of *The Obesity Society*. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature of adverse events. Defendant Lief stated:

The data highlighted in this publication demonstrate lorcaserin's potential to become the first in a new class of weight management agents, thereby addressing an urgent need for new approaches to the obesity epidemic . . . . We are confident the three ongoing lorcaserin Phase 3 trials will build on the clinical data published today, and we eagerly anticipate the announcement of our first Phase 3 data from the BLOOM trial around the end of March 2009. We expect the top-line BLOOM data will be followed by a peer reviewed presentation of the data at a conference later in the year, the announcement of BLOSSOM data in the Fall, and the submission of our New Drug Application to the FDA by the end of 2009.

- "33. Upon this news, Arena's stock closed up \$0.24 per share to close at \$3.84 per share on December 8, 2008. By the end of December 2008, Arena's stock closed at \$4.17 per share.
- "34. On March 12, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing its fourth quarter and year end 2008 results. Defendant Lief reported on Lorcaserin in the press release, stating: 'We are excited that in only a few weeks we will be announcing top-line data from the first of two pivotal trials evaluating the safety and efficacy of lorcaserin, which has the potential to be the first in a new class of drugs selectively targeting a well validated weight loss receptor . . . .'
- "35. On March 30, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing positive results from its Phase III BLOOM trial for Lorcaserin. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature of adverse events.
- "36. On May 11, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing its first quarter 2009 results. Defendant Lief reported on Lorcaserin in the press release, stating: 'Receiving the positive lorcaserin BLOOM results was a significant milestone for Arena, and we are focusing our financial, management and

development resources on completing the lorcaserin BLOSSOM trial on schedule and submitting our New Drug Application for lorcaserin by the end of the year . . . . '

- "37. On June 17, 2009, Arena announced it had entered into a \$100 million credit facility with Deerfield Management ("Deerfield"), a healthcare investment organization and one of the Company's largest stockholders.
- "38. On July 8, 2009, Arena engaged in a public offering of 12.5 million shares of its common stock at a purchase price of \$4.17 per share. Arena received \$52.1 million in gross proceeds from the offering.
- "39. On August 3, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing its second quarter 2009 results. Defendant Lief reported on Lorcaserin in the press release, stating: 'We are on track to announce results from the BLOSSOM trial in September, which we expect will be the final piece of lorcaserin's NDA that we plan to submit by the end of this year . . . . Based on its emerging efficacy, safety and tolerability profile, lorcaserin has the potential to be an important new treatment option for patients needing to better manage their weight and improve their overall health. Our improved financial position strengthens our ability to obtain marketing approval for lorcaserin and our position in partnership discussions.'
- "40. On September 18, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing positive results from its Phase III BLOSSOM trial for Lorcaserin. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature and rate of adverse events. Defendant Lief stated:

"History has taught us that the marriage of efficacy and safety is of critical importance in treating patients. Neither is sufficient without the other. With its excellent safety and tolerability profile, we expect lorcaserin to change the way primary care doctors treat the broad cross-section of overweight and obese patients with pharmacotherapy.... With the completion of our robust Phase 3 pivotal program, we will focus on the NDA filing, work with the FDA during the review process and prepare for the commercialization of lorcaserin."

"41. On October 25, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing additional positive results from its BLOOM trial for Lorcaserin. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature and rate of adverse events.

- "42. On October 27, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing additional positive results from its BLOSSOM trial for Lorcaserin. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature and rate of adverse events.
- "43. On November 9, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing its third quarter 2009 results. Defendant Lief reported on Lorcaserin in the press release, stating: 'The successful completion of the lorcaserin pivotal program in the third quarter was a critical milestone for Arena . . . . If approved, the unique combination of efficacy, safety and tolerability positions lorcaserin as first-line therapy.'
- "44. On December 10, 2009, Arena issued a press release announcing additional published data and additional positive results from its BLOSSOM trial for Lorcaserin. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature and rate of adverse events.
- "45. On December 22, 2009, Arena submitted its NDA for Lorcaserin based on a data package that included 18 clinical trials totaling 8,576 patients. The pivotal Phase III clinical trial programs, BLOOM (Behavioral modification and Lorcaserin for Overweight and Obesity Management) and BLOSSOM (Behavioral modification and Lorcaserin Second Study for Obesity Management), evaluated nearly 7,200 patients who were treated for up to two years.
- "46. On this news, Arena's stock closed up \$0.10 per share on December 22, 2009, to close at \$3.84 per share. Thereafter, Arena's stock continued to trade in the \$3.00-\$4.00 per share range for the next six months.
- "47. On February 26, 2010, Arena issued a press release announcing that the FDA had assigned a date of October 22, 2010 to review the NDA for Lorcaserin. The press release falsely and misleadingly stated: "In both

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[BLOOM and BLOSSOM] trials, lorcaserin produced statistically significant weight loss with excellent safety and tolerability."

"48. On March 12, 2010, Arena issued a press release announcing its 2009 results. Defendant Lief reported on Lorcaserin in the press release, stating: 'We are pleased with the timely execution and significant progress made in our lorcaserin program . . . . [W]e are building a strong foundation for a successful launch upon potential approval.' The press release reiterated the false and misleading statement made in the February 26, 2010 press release, stating: 'In both [BLOOM and BLOSSOM] trials, lorcaserin produced statistically significant weight loss with excellent safety and tolerability.'

"49. On May 7, 2010, Arena issued a press release announcing its first quarter 2010 results. Defendant Lief reported on Lorcaserin in the press release, stating: 'We believe that lorcaserin represents a significant medical and commercial opportunity based on the drug candidate's unique combination of safety, efficacy and tolerability in our pivotal trial program.' The press release contained the further false and misleading statement that '[i]n both [BLOOM and BLOSSOM] trials, lorcaserin produced highly statistically significant weight loss with excellent safety and tolerability.'

that the Company had entered into a marketing and supply agreement with Eisai Inc. ("Eisai") related to Lorcaserin. Pursuant to the agreement, Eisai would have exclusive rights to market and distribute the drug in the United States following the approval of Lorcaserin by the FDA. Arena would manufacture Lorcaserin and sell the drug to Eisai for marketing and distribution in the United States. In addition, per the agreement, Arena would receive an upfront payment of \$50 million and the Company would further be entitled to received up to an additional \$90 million in milestone payments after Lorcaserin received FDA approval.

"51. Upon this news, Arena's stock began to climb. It closed up \$0.56, or 16%, to close at \$3.56 per share on July 1, 2010.

"52. On July 14, 2010, Arena issued a press release announcing the publication of the results of the two-year BLOOM study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Defendants discussed the results of the study and the nature and rate of adverse events. Defendants failed to include in their discussion of the safety profile of Lorcaserin the adverse results from the rat carcinogenicity studies.

"53. On July 15, 2010, it was announced that the FDA had denied approval for the weight loss drug Qnexa, submitted for approval by Arena's competitor Vivus Inc., due to safety concerns.

"54. Upon this news, Arena's stock closed up \$0.74, or 18%, to close at \$4.66 per share on July 16, 2010. Thereafter, Arena's stock continued to trend upwards, reaching its Class Period high of \$7.95 per share on July 30, 2010.

"55. On August 3, 2010, Arena issued a press release announcing its second quarter 2010 results. Defendant Lief reported on the upcoming date for the FDA advisory panel meeting for Lorcaserin and reported on results from the Lorcaserin studies, providing data on the benefits of Lorcaserin. Defendants failed to include in their discussion of Lorcaserin the adverse results from the rat carcinogenicity studies.

"56. On August 6, 2010, Arena issued a press release confirming the September 16, 2010 date of the FDA Advisory Committee meeting. Defendant Lief stated: 'We...look forward to reviewing lorcaserin's profile with the panel members,' and reiterated the prior false and misleading statement that "[i]n both [BLOOM and BLOSSOM] trials, lorcaserin was well tolerated and produced statistically significant weight loss.'

"57. Further on August 6, 2010, Arena announced that it had entered into an agreement with Deerfield to sell to Deerfield a total of 8,955,224 shares of its common stock at a price of \$6.70 per share in a registered direct public

offering. Arena received \$60 million in gross proceeds from the offering. Arena further announced that it had also amended its pre-existing credit facility with Deerfield in connection with the offering.

"58. On September 14, 2010, the FDA issued a briefing document in advance of its advisory panel meeting in which the agency questioned both the safety and efficacy of Lorcaserin. According to the FDA staff scientist's analysis, Lorcaserin produced minimal weight loss results, barely meeting the agency's threshold for weight loss effectiveness, while at the same time raising certain cardiovascular and cancer safety risks. Most notably, the briefing document disclosed that the drug was associated with malignant tumors in rats. Investors were not aware of the results of the rat carcinogenicity studies prior to the release of the FDA briefing document.

"59. The market price of Arena common stock plummeted upon this news, collapsing \$2.72 per share to close at \$4.13 per share on September 14, 2010 – a one-day decline of 40% on high volume.

"60. On September 16, 2010, the FDA advisory panel voted 9 to 5 against approval of Lorcaserin, in large part because of the results of the rat carcinogenicity studies and the modest therapeutic benefits associated with Lorcaserin.

- "61. In a conference call with analysts on September 17, 2010, certain defendants admitted that they were aware of these results but decided not to disclose them to the public because they did not believe they were material.
- "62. Arena's stock fell another \$1.75 per share to close at \$1.99 per share on September 17, 2010 a one-day decline of over 46% on high volume."
- 39. As with the other securities actions, the Pratt complaint further alleges Defendants herein concealed the truth and caused the damages to the shareholders, in paragraphs 63 to 64:
  - "63. The true facts, which were known by the defendants but concealed from the investing public during the Class Period, were as follows:

- (a) Defendants failed to disclose the truth concerning the potential for increased cardiovascular and cancer safety risks association with Lorcaserin, including the results of the rat carcinogenicity studies; and
- (b) Defendants failed to disclose the truth concerning the efficacy of Lorcaserin for weight loss.
- "64. As a result of defendants' false statements, Arena stock traded at inflated levels during the Class Period. However, after the above revelations seeped into the market, the Company's shares were hammered by massive sales, sending them down 75% from their Class Period high."
- 40. As with the other securities actions filed, the Pratt complaint further alleges and summarizes its claims against the Company and certain of its directors in paragraphs 65 to 71:
  - "65. By misrepresenting, *inter alia*, the Company's prospects for its experimental new drug Lorcaserin, the defendants presented a misleading picture of Arena's business and prospects. Thus, instead of truthfully disclosing during the Class Period that Lorcaserin raised certain safety concerns, including the risk of cancer, and only provided a modest weight loss benefit, defendants constantly assured investors that Lorcaserin was safe and effective.
  - "66. These claims caused and maintained the artificial inflation in Arena's stock price throughout the Class Period and until the truth was revealed to the market.
  - "67. On September 14, 2010, the FDA issued a briefing document questioning the efficacy and safety of Lorcaserin, causing Arena's stock to collapse 40% from \$6.85 per share to \$4.13 per share in one day.
  - "68. On September 16, 2010, the FDA advisory panel voted against approving Lorcaserin, finding that the benefits of the drug did not outweigh the risks associated with the drug, causing Arena's stock price to collapse another 46% from \$3.74 per share to \$1.99 per share in one day.

"69. As a direct result of defendants' admissions and the public revelations regarding the truth about Arena's actual business prospects going forward, Arena's stock price fell 75% from its Class Period high, from \$7.95 per share on July 30, 2010 to close at \$1.99 per share on September 17, 2010. This drop removed the inflation from Arena's stock price, causing real economic loss to investors who had purchased the stock during the Class Period.

"70. Arena's verbal "Safe Harbor" warnings accompanying its oral forward-looking statements ("FLS") issued during the Class Period were ineffective to shield those statements from liability.

"71. The defendants are also liable for any false or misleading FLS pleaded because, at the time each FLS was made, the speaker knew the FLS was false or misleading and the FLS was authorized and/or approved by an executive officer of Arena who knew that the FLS was false. None of the historic or present tense statements made by defendants were assumptions underlying or relating to any plan, projection or statement of future economic performance, as they were not stated to be such assumptions underlying or relating to any projection or statement of future economic performance when made, nor were any of the projections or forecasts made by defendants expressly related to or stated to be dependent on those historic or present tense statements when made."

### DAMAGES TO THE COMPANY

- 41. As a result of the Individual Defendants' improprieties, Arena failed to maintain proper internal controls and procedures. The Company is facing a number of lawsuits alleging violations of the federal securities laws.
- 42. Arena may also have to re-state its previously filed financial earnings after its auditors complete their investigations, which will no doubt cause Arena's stock price to drop even further. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' actions as alleged above, Arena's market capitalization has been substantially damaged.

- 43. Further, as a direct and proximate result of Individual Defendants' actions, Arena has expended and will continue to expend significant sums of money that it otherwise would not have had to. Such expenditures include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Costs incurred in investigating and defending Arena and certain officers in the securities class actions, plus potentially millions of dollars in settlements or adverse judgment;
- (b) Costs incurred from compensation and benefits paid to the Individual Defendants, which compensation was based at least in part on Arena's artificially-inflated stock price and inflated revenues; and
- (c) Costs incurred from the loss of the Company's customers' confidence in Arena's services.
- 44. As a result of the Individual Defendants' misconduct, Arena's corporate image and goodwill have been irreparably damaged. Arena's Board has misled the investing public, such that Arena's ability to raise equity capital or debt on favorable terms in the future is now impaired.

### DERIVATIVE AND DEMAND FUTILITY ALLEGATIONS

- 45. Plaintiff brings this action derivatively in the right and for the benefit of Arena to redress injuries suffered, and to be suffered, by Arena as a direct result of the breaches of fiduciary duty, as well as the aiding and abetting thereof, and unjust enrichment by the Individual Defendants. Arena is named as a nominal defendant solely in a derivative capacity. This is not a collusive action to confer jurisdiction on this Court that it would not otherwise have.
- 46. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent the interests of Arena in enforcing and prosecuting its rights.
- 47. Plaintiff has continuously held the stock of Arena during all times relevant to the Individual Defendants' wrongful course of conduct alleged herein, and remains a shareholder of the Company.
- 48. Arena's three committees consist of only independent directors, i.e., non-employee directors. Arena claims that such composition leads to better oversight but in fact the lack of proper oversight and intervention by the committees led to the present situation wherein the Company finds itself sued for violating the securities laws.

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- 49. The current Board of Arena consists of the following nine individuals: defendants Lief, Behan, Belcher, Bice, Hixson, Nova, Schneider, White, and Woods. Plaintiff has not made any demand on the present Board of Arena to institute this action because such a demand would be a futile, wasteful and useless act. Demand is futile for a combination of the following reasons, as set forth in paragraphs 48 through 58.
- 50. Defendant Lief is co-founder, President, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. The principal professional occupation of Lief is his employment with Arena, pursuant to which he received and continues to receive substantial monetary compensation and other benefits. In fact, over the past 3 years, Arena has paid Lief the following compensation: 2007: \$2,435,491; 2008: \$1,645,475; 2009: \$1,563,992. Lief was given 300,000 shares of stock by the Company as a "Performance - Based" award in 2007. As of March 10, 2010, Lief owned 1,369,357 shares of the Company, or 1.34%, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. Given his personal ties to the Company, as well as his significant compensation, Lief is not capable of fairly considering a demand that he initiate this lawsuit against himself or his fellow directors.
- 51. Further, as Chairman, President, and CEO, Lief is ultimately responsible for ensuring that Arena maintains effective controls and complies with state and federal laws and regulations. As discussed above, Lief breached these duties and, thus, is not capable of fairly considering a litigation demand.
- 52. In addition, Lief signed the Certification for the Company's SEC Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. Thus, Lief faces a substantial threat of liability should it be determined that the information contained therein is unreliable.
- 53. Defendant Behan is co-founder, director, Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of the Company. The principal professional occupation of Behan is his employment with Arena, pursuant to which he received and continues to receive substantial monetary compensation and other benefits. In fact, over the past 3 years, Arena has paid Behan the following compensation: 2007: \$995,213; 2008: \$748,187; 2009: \$715,327. Behan was given 100,000 shares of stock by the Company as a "Performance – Based" award in 2007. As of March 10, 2010, Behan owned 761,948

shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. Given his personal ties to the Company, as well as his significant compensation, Behan is not capable of fairly considering a demand that he initiate this lawsuit against himself or his fellow directors.

- 54. Defendant Belcher has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2003. He is a member of the Audit Committee and the Chair of the Compensation Committee. The Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring that Arena complies with all laws and regulations that have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin will have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. As such, Belcher faces a substantial threat of liability such that he cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, Behan owned 194,100 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an outside director of the Company, he is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.
- 55. Defendant Bice has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2003. Bice is a member of the Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with providing accurate information to the Board on a timely basis and to periodically review and assess the performance of the Board and each of its committees, as well as reviewing the independence of any director. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin establishes the Corporate Governance Committee has not adequately performed its duties. As such, Bice faces a substantial threat of liability such that he cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, Bice owned 95,667 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an outside director of the Company, he is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.
- 56. Defendant Hixson has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2004. Hixson is a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Corporate Governance

Committee is charged with providing accurate information to the Board on a timely basis and to periodically review and assess the performance of the Board and each of its committees, as well as reviewing the independence of any director. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin establishes the Corporate Governance Committee has not adequately performed its duties. As such, Hixson faces a substantial threat of liability such that he cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, Hixson owned 234,110 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an outside director of the Company, he is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.

- 57. Defendant Nova been a member of the Board of Directors since 2004. Nova is a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with providing accurate information to the Board on a timely basis and to periodically review and assess the performance of the Board and each of its committees, as well as reviewing the independence of any director. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin establishes the Corporate Governance Committee has not adequately performed its duties. As such, Nova faces a substantial threat of liability such that she cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, Nova owned 83,000 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an outside director of the Company, he is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.
- 58. Defendant Schneider has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2007. Schneider is the Chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring that Arena complies with all laws and regulations that have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin will have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. As such, Schneider faces a substantial threat of liability such that he cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, Schneider owned 69,624 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an outside director of the Company, he is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in

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cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.

- 59. Defendant White has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2006. She has been since November 2008 the "lead independent director" and as such, has worked closely with Lief, the Chairman of the Board and the President and CEO. White is or was a member of the Audit Committee and the Chair of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring that Arena complies with all laws and regulations that have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin will have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. As such, White faces a substantial threat of liability such that she cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. Corporate Governance Committee is charged with providing accurate information to the Board on a timely basis and to periodically review and assess the performance of the Board and each of its committees, as well as reviewing the independence of any director. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin establishes the Corporate Governance Committee has not adequately performed its duties. As such, White faces a substantial threat of liability such that he cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, White owned 114,068 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an outside director of the Company, she is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.
- 60. Defendant Woods has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2007. Woods is a member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and the Compensation Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with providing accurate information to the Board on a timely basis and to periodically review and assess the performance of the Board and each of its committees, as well as reviewing the independence of any director. The failure to disclose the truth about Lorcaserin establishes the Corporate Governance Committee has not adequately performed its duties. As such, Woods faces a substantial threat of liability such that he cannot fairly consider a litigation demand. As of March 10, 2010, Woods owned 60,624 shares of the Company, including shares that could be purchased through stock options within 60 days. As an

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outside director of the Company, he is paid a minimum of \$20,000 per year, in cash or stock options, to be on the Board, and additional cash payments of \$500 to \$3,000 for each board or committee meeting attended.

### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# Against All Individual Defendants for Breach of Fiduciary Duty (Misrepresentations)

- 61. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.
- 62. The Individual Defendants owed and owe Arena fiduciary obligations. By reason of their fiduciary relationships, the Individual Defendants owed and owe Arena the highest obligation of good faith, fair dealing, loyalty and due care.
- 63. The Individual Defendants, and each of them, violated and breached their fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, reasonable inquiry, oversight, good faith and supervision.
- 64. Each of the Individual Defendants had actual or constructive knowledge that they had caused the Company to make only truthful, complete and honest representations to the marketplace. These actions were not a good faith exercise of prudent business judgment to protect and promote the Company's corporate interests.
- 65. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' failure to perform their fiduciary obligations, Arena has sustained significant damages. As a result of the misconduct alleged herein, the Individual Defendants are liable to the Company.
- 66. Additionally, by their actions alleged herein, the Individual Defendants, either directly or through aiding and abetting, abandoned and abdicated their responsibilities and fiduciary duties with regard to prudently managing the assets and business of Arena in a manner consistent with the operations of a publicly held corporation.
- 67. As a direct and proximate result of the Individual Defendants' mismanagement and breaches of duty alleged herein, Arena has sustained significant damages in excess of the jurisdiction of this Court. As a result of the misconduct and breaches of duty alleged herein, the Individual Defendants are liable to the Company.
  - 68. Plaintiff, on behalf of Arena have no adequate remedy at law.

1 **COUNT I** 2 For Waste of Corporate Assets Against the Individual Defendants 3 69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein. 5 70. As a result of the misconduct described above, the Individual Defendants wasted 6 corporate assets by: (i) failing to conduct proper supervision; (ii) paying bonuses to certain of its executive officers; and (iii) by incurring potential tens of millions of dollars in legal liability 8 and/or legal costs to defend defendants' unlawful action. 9 71. As a result of the waste of corporate assets, the Individual Defendants are liable to 10 the Company. Plaintiff, on behalf of Arena, has no adequate remedy at law. 11 72. **COUNT II** 12 13 **Against All Defendants for Unjust Enrichment** 14 73. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation 15 contained above, as though fully set forth herein. By their wrongful acts and omissions, the Individual Defendants were unjustly 16 74. 17 enriched at the expense of and to the detriment of Arena. The Individual Defendants were 18 unjustly enriched as a result of the compensation and director remuneration they received while 19 breaching fiduciary duties owed to Arena. 20 75. Plaintiff, as a shareholder and representative of Arena, seeks restitution from these defendants, and each of them, and seeks an order of this Court disgorging all profits, 21 22 benefits, and other compensation obtained by these defendants, and each of them, from their 23 wrongful conduct and fiduciary breaches. 76. 24 Plaintiff, on behalf of Arena, has no adequate remedy at law. 25 PRAYER FOR RELIEF WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment as follows: 26 Against all the Individual Defendants and in favor of the Company for the amount of 27 A. damages sustained by the Company as a result of the Individual Defendants' breaches of fiduciary 28

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Verified Shareholder Derivative

Complaint

duties and unjust enrichment;

- B. Directing Arena to take all necessary actions to reform and improve its corporate governance and internal procedures to comply with applicable laws and to protect Arena and its shareholders from a reoccurrence of the damaging events described herein, including, but not limited to, putting forward for shareholder vote resolutions for amendments to the Company's By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation and taking such other action as may be necessary to place before shareholders for a vote the following Corporate Governance Policies:
- 1. a proposal to strengthen the Board's supervision of operations and develop and implement procedures for greater shareholder input into the policies and guidelines of the Board;
- 2. a provision to permit the shareholders of Arena to nominate at least three candidates for election to the Board;
- 3. a proposal to ensure the accuracy of the qualifications of Arena's directors, executives and other employees;
- a proposal to strengthen the Company's procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing matters; and
  - 5. appropriately test and then strengthen the internal audit and control functions.
- C. Extraordinary equitable and/or injunctive relief as permitted by law, equity and state statutory provisions sued hereunder so as to assure that Plaintiff, on behalf of Arena, has an effective remedy;
- D. Awarding to Arena restitution from the defendants, and each of them, and ordering disgorgement of all profits, benefits and other compensation obtained by the defendants;
- E. Awarding to Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of the action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, accountants' and experts' fees, costs, and expenses; and

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1	F. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.						
2	JURY DEMAND						
3	Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on matters triable by jury.						
4	4						
5	Dated: November 12, 2010 LAW OFFICES OF RONALD A. MARRON, APLC						
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15	<u>VERIFICATION</u>						
16	I, Ronald A. Marron, hereby declare as follows:						
17	1. I am a principal and owner of the Law Offices of Ronald A. Marron, APLC, counsel for						
18	Plaintiff in the above-entitled action. I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents						
19	thereof. I am informed and believe the matters therein are true and on that ground allege that the						
20	matters stated therein are true.						
21	2. I make this Verification because Plaintiff is absent from the County of San Diego where						
22	I maintain my office.						
23	Executed this day of November, 2010 at San Diego, California under the laws of						
24	the United States.						
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26	Jank.						
27	Ronald A. Marron						
28							

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Verified Shareholder Derivative Complaint

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANT	ГS			-		
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(b) County of Residence	e of First Listed Plaintiff	San Diego		County of Resider			•	San Diego		
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☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizens)	nip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	<b>□</b> 2	<b>□</b> 2	Incorporated and I of Business In		<b>5</b>	<b>⊠</b> 5
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